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NEWS RELEASE

April 20, 2009

Contact: Kay Wilson or Linda Talbott, Montana Public Radio, 406-243-4988, 800-325-1565.

BILL HARLEY RETURNS TO UM STAGE

MISSOULA—

Grammy Award-winning singer and storyteller Bill Harley will perform Sunday, May 17, at The University of Montana – and he’s bringing “Zanzibar,” one of his most requested stories. The event begins at 2 p.m. in the University Theatre.

Harley is a nationally recognized family entertainer whose stories and songs paint a vibrant and hilarious picture of growing up. His tales of school bus adventures, the mysterious teachers’ lounge and homework completed at the last possible moment get adults, as well as the children in his audiences, laughing out loud. His concerts are great entertainment for children of all ages.

Montana Public Radio listeners find Harley’s tales irresistible. They’ve come to love listening to them on the station’s children’s programs, “The Pea Green Boat” and “Children’s Corner.” Fans know many of the stories and their accompanying tunes by heart.

Tickets for the UM performance cost \$15 for people 19 and older and \$10 for those 18 and under. They can be purchased online at <http://www.griztix.com>, at all GrizTix locations or by calling 406-243-4051 or 888-MONTANA. Limited premium seating is available for \$20 for those 19 and older or for \$15 for people 18 and under.

One of Harley's most requested stories is "Zanzibar," a long tale of assigned schoolwork and his creative solution to the project. Harley rarely performs "Zanzibar" in concerts because of its length. This time, however, he has agreed to include it in his program.

His agreement to include "Zanzibar" is a special thank-you to MTPR's loyal listeners, who flock to Harley's shows every time he visits Missoula. When he visited Missoula in 2007, the concert was recorded and turned into a CD and DVD - "Yes to Running: Bill Harley Live" - for which Harley received a Grammy Award in February. "Zanzibar" will be a special treat for the Missoula audiences who helped make "Yes to Running" a success.

The Boston Globe describes Harley as a performer who has the gift to turn a fight with his kids over control of the car radio into an uproarious tale, saying he combines wry observation with well-crafted folk, pop and rock music to tell tales that tickle the funny bone and tease the brain. The Globe compares Harley's storytelling to that of Mark Twain and Bill Cosby.

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